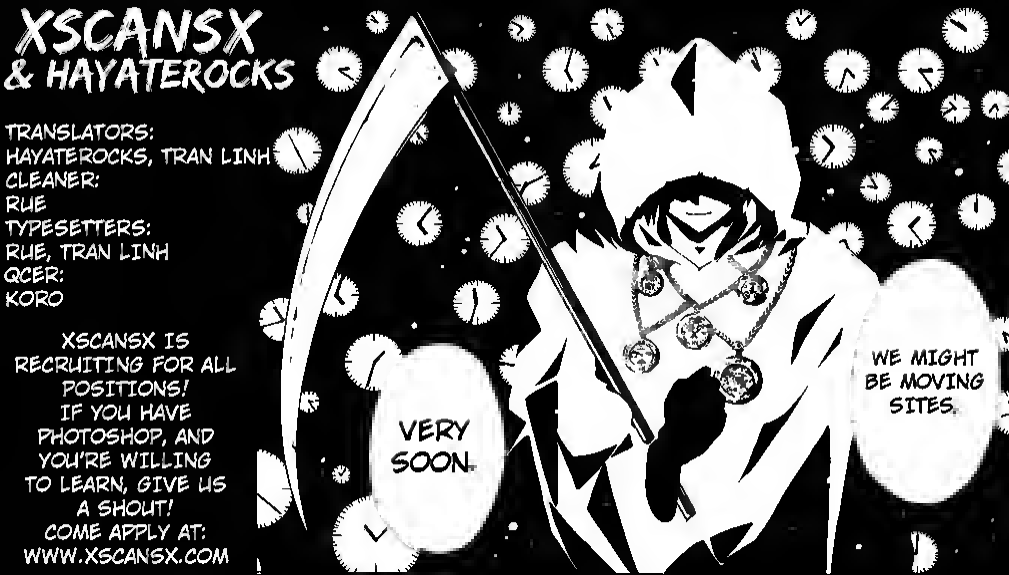

XSCANSX
& HAYATEROCKS
TRANSLATORS:
HAYATEROCKS, TRAN LINH
CLEANER:
RUE
TYPESETTERS:
RUE, TRAN LINH
QCER:
KORO
XSCANSX IS RECRUITING FOR ALL POSITIONS!
IF YOU HAVE PHOTOSHOP, AND YOU'RE WILLING TO LEARN, GIVE US A SHOUT!
COME APPLY AT:
WWW.XSCANSX.COM
VERY SOON.
WE MIGHT BE MOVING SITES.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE KILLED
BY THE GHOST THAT'S HAUNTING YOU.
TORA,
IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE...
IN WHAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
I LOST AGAIN...
BETTING LUNCH... ON TIC-TAC-TOE...
I KEPT ON LOSING, SO I HAD TO PAY FOR THEIR MEALS...
†SORTA LIKE THIS
SHUT UP...
WELL, THAT'S A SHAME.
SO, HOW'S THE WATER?
.....

FLASH
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, TORA?
HUH? N-NOTHING ...
.....
EXCUSE ME...
HAS ANYONE SEEN MY 1000 YEN BILL?
BY THE WAY, KARUGASAKI-SAN, ♪
I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP ME WITH SOMETHING...

#5 A LOVER AND A GHOST

SATO YUUKI

YOU... YOU WANT ME TO BECOME T-TORA'S BOYFRIEND?
CHOMP
YOU SEE,
I WANT TO START A NEW BUSINESS
THIS TIME, I'M GOING WITH MATCH-MAKING.
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, I'D LIKE YOU AND KASUGASAKI-SAN TO HELP ME OUT WITH ADVERTISING. NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE KASUGASAKI-SAN HAVING A GIRL-FRIEND...
IF PEOPLE FIND OUT THAT I WAS ABLE TO PAIR KASUGASAKI-SAN WITH A GIRL, I'M SURE THE BUSINESS WILL SELL ITSELF.
W-WAIT A SEC!
WOMEN ARE SCARY.
SO THIS IS THE REAL KOBA-YAKAWA...
TO BE A GIRL-FRIEND WITH. THIS IDIOT
WHAT THE HELL!? WHY WOULD I EVER WANT TO-
IT'S JUST MAKE-BELIEVE STUFF, NOTHING SERIOUS

"LOVERS' VALLEY"? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S CALLED THE "LOVERS' VALLEY."
THERE'S A PLACE THAT WILL DEFINITELY ATTRACT ATTENTION.
DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S A SLIGHTLY LONGER PATH FROM THE TRAIN STATION THAT LEADS TO THE BACK GATE OF THE SCHOOL.
SCHOOL
LOVERS' VALLEY
NORMAL PATH TO SCHOOL
STATION
SINCE IT'S LONGER, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF CUTE COFFEE SHOPS NEARBY,
ONLY COUPLES TAKE THAT ROUTE NOWADAYS, AND THUS IT'S BEEN DUBBED THE "LOVERS' VALLEY."
CRAP...
THIS IS STUPID! WHY SHOULD I BECOME PART OF AN ADVERTISEMENT?
B-BUT NOBODY CAN SEE MIKI, SO WE WOULDN'T BE A COUPLE!
IF YOU KEEP COMPLAINING I'LL RELEASE THAT PICTURE YOU KNOW
I'LL DO IT! I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY APPEARANCE.
I MEAN, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR THE OTHERS OTHERWISE
WHADDYA MEAN BY THAT!?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THEN HOW ABOUT PAIRING YOU WITH KONOZOI-SAN...?
WAIT A SEC. WHY ARE YOU ALL HYPED UP ABOUT DOING THIS..?
TWITCH

WH-WH-WHO'S HYPED UP ABOUT IT!?
ARGH
I JUST FELT A BIT BAD ABOUT DRAINING YOUR WALLET ALL THE TIME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING THIS 'CAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ROMANTIC, YOU KNOW! GOT IT!?
MAKE SURE TO PAY FOR YOUR DAMAGES
I DON'T THINK HE CAN HEAR YOU.

BACK GATE
AFTER SCHOOL
H-HEY ...
LOOK AT THAT...

KARUGA-SAKI-KUN IS...
WALKING WITH A GHOUL!
YOU IDIOTS! CAN'T YOU ALL TELL SHE'S MY GIRL-FRIEND!?
SHE'S INJURED!
A GIRL WITH KARUGA-SAKI?
G-GIRL FRIEND ...!?
YEAH, I'M SURPRISED TOO, YOU KNOW!
I GOTTA ADMIT, KOBAYAKAWA'S LOVE FORTUNE-TELLING DEFINITELY WORKS... TO THINK EVEN A GUY LIKE ME'D HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! MATCHMAKING SURE BROUGHT ME TO PARADISE! HA HA HA HA~!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PRETTY GULLIBLE.
AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T HAVE TO WALK DOWN LOVERS' VALLEY, WILL WE?
.....
NO...
?
LET'S GET OUR FORTUNES TOLD BY KOBA-YAKAWA!
A MIRACLE LIKE THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN IN A MILLION YEARS!
WHAT THE HELL IS THEIR PROBLEM?
HUH... OKAY...
YOU SEEM PRETTY WORKED UP ABOUT THIS.
L-LE-LET'S GO... TO LOVERS' VALLEY.
WE PROMISED KOBA-YAKAWA.
I GOT IT.
THEY'RE HOT!
...YOU'D BETTER STAY RIGHT THERE!
...H-HEY, WAIT A SECOND, LET ME FIX THE BANDAGES!

SEEMS TO BE HAVING QUITE THE TIME...
SHE...
LADIES (RESTROOM)
WHY AM I FIX-ING MY UNIFORM?
AND...
WH-WHY AM I GETTING ALL NERVOUS NOW..?
IF I DON'T WRAP THESE BANDAGES
I GUESS I DON'T NEED THE BANDAGES OR THE WIG ANYMORE
PEOPLE CAN'T SEE ME
...I CAN'T REMEMBER... MY REAL NAME OR ANYTHING ABOUT ME...
DID I DIE IN THIS UNIFORM?
THE UNIFORM AND MY BODY ARE INVISIBLE TO OTHERS
WHY DID I BECOME A GHOST?

HEY~ MIKI!!
YOU STILL IN THERE?
YOU'RE MIKI.
THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA CALL YOU FROM NOW ON.
MIKI! WHERE ARE YOU?
I WANNA HURRY UP AND GO HOME NOW!
.....
OH WELL... I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE!

TORA, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE BEING TOO NOISY.
SHUT UP. WERE YOU TAKING A DUMP OR SOMETHIN'?
LOOK, KARUGA-SAKI!
THE CAFE, SUGAR FRIEND!
ば
ん
THAT'S THE SPECIALTY OF LOVERS' VALLEY...
WHERE'D YOUR BANDAGES GO?
I TOOK THEM OFF — THEY'RE TOO HOT.
LET'S GO!
ISN'T THAT POINT-LESS?
HEY!
HOW WOULD A GHOST LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?
THERE'S A SPECIAL DISH JUST FOR COUPLES.
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GETTING.
HERE IT IS.
NOBODY CAN SEE YOU... I'LL ORDER IT.

WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS EMBARRASSING DISH?
THE MONSTER-PURE-HEART-PUDDING-PARFAIT.
WHOEVER EATS LESS PAYS FOR IT, OKAY?
WELL, I'M DIGGING IN.
I'M DIGGING IN TOO!
YOU THINK I'M GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT?
NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED IT TO BE THIS BIG
NOT TO MENTION.. IT'S HUGE..

CAN I OPEN IT?
OH, IT'S A FORTUNE!
...MMM
CRUNCH
HMM.. I WONDER WHAT IT IS...
IT WAS IN THE COOKIE ...
WHAT IS IT, MIKI?
SO, WHAT'S INSIDE?
HUH ?
OH, UHM, RIGHT ...
GO AHEAD.

...YEAH
THE PARFAIT WAS PRETTY GOOD, MIKI.
LUCK...
AH-
ANYTHING ELSE?
...
OH?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE HOURGLASS HAS APPEARED
I'M GLAD WE'RE TOGETHER

WHAT'S ALL THIS THEN?
HOW ABOUT WE DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE THE MOOD?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY...
NICE TIMING BY THE WAY
HMM?
YOU...
WHO ARE YOU?
WH... HOW...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MIKI?!
HUH ...?
YOU ARE NOT KARUGASAKI, CORRECT?

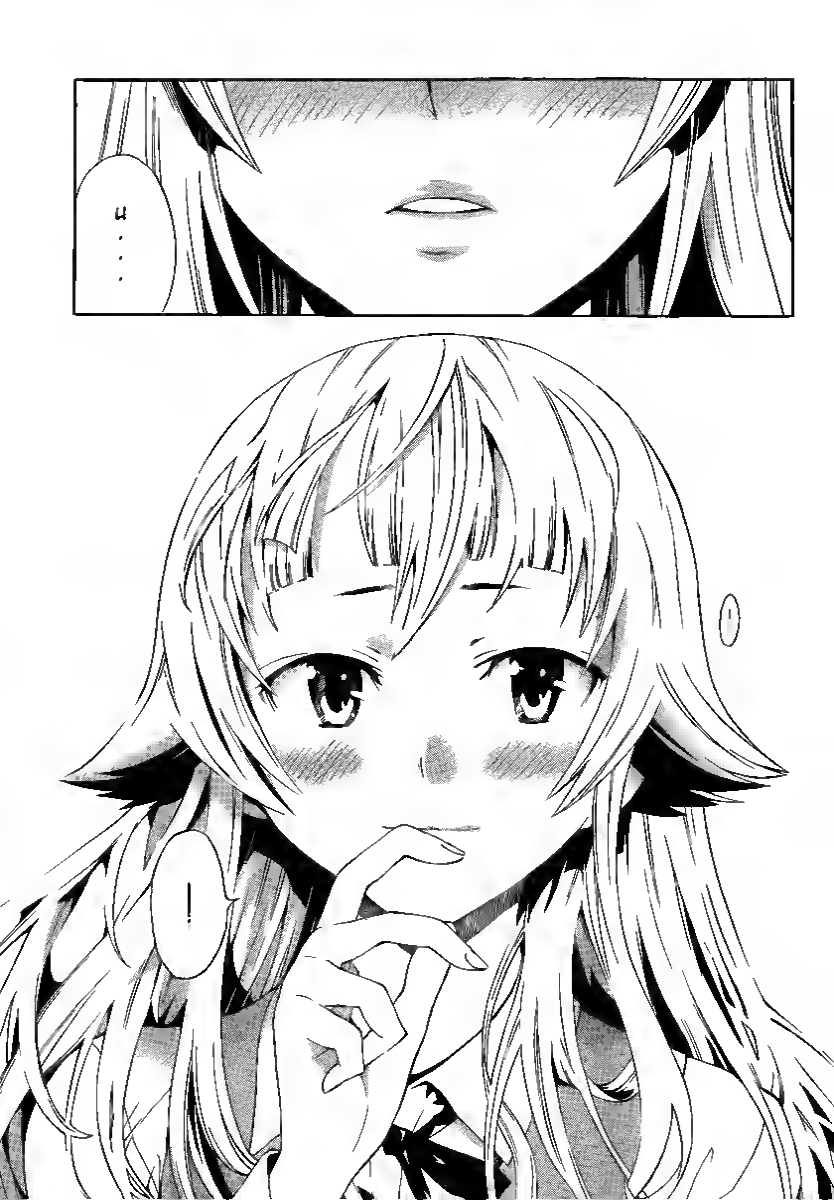
HOW DID YOU KNOW ...?
.....
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF HOW
RATHER... I KNOW HIM WELL...
SO DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE ME!
HEH ...
FOR A SPIRIT TO HAVE SUCH...
SHUT UP!
WHERE IS KARUGA-SAKI!?

!
HE'S IN HELL.
WHERE ..?
!?
YOU DIDN'T FEEL THIS SHINIGAMI'S PRESENCE?
A COMPLACENT GHOST WHO GOES ON LIVING WITHOUT ANY REGRET?
A USELESS SOUL LIKE YOU SHOULD JUST BE CUT DOWN ASAP.
YOU BASTARD! YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE SHINI-GAMI?
WHERE'S KARUGA-SAKI?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.. HE'S BEING TAKEN CARE OF BY MY COMPANION
SO HE SHOULD ALREADY BE WAITING FOR YOU IN HELL, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU!
HEY HEY! DON'T...

MOVE ...?
SO THE GUY WAS ALL TALK AFTER ALL...
KARUGA-SAKI!!
UGYAH HH!?

KUKUKU... WHAT'S THAT? A TRIAL?
WHAT? LOVE? ARE YOU STUPID?
...NOPE ...SEEMS LIKE IT'S THEIR MAGIC..
IS THAT A SHINI-GAMI?
AH, MIKI, IT'S ME, I'M THE REAL THING
WE MIGHT HAVE FAILED THE TRIAL
R-REALLY ?
IF I HADN'T REALIZED IT...
HE DIS-GUISED HIMSELF AS YOU AND TRIED TO FOOL ME
.....
AS IF GHOSTS NEED CRAP LIKE THAT!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ANGER THE SHINI-GAMI?
STOP IT
WAIT, TORA!
THAT'S ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY?
BUH!

OF COURSE ...
I WON'T FORGIVE THAT TYPE OF BASTARD
IF HE WANTS TO COME, I'LL TAKE HIM ON
MIKI, I WILL PROTECT YOU
SO REST ASSURED.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THE SCYTHES HAVE DISAPPEARED!?
HUH?
EH??? BUT I HAVEN'T SAID "I LOVE YOU" OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?
SWISH
OR...
OUCH!!
WHAT?! EVEN WITHOUT ME YOU COULD HAVE TAKEN HIM ALONE, RIGHT!?
WHO KNOWS!?
THEN HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS A FAKE?
I JUST DID!
RATHER THAN THAT, WEREN'T YOU DAWDLING ON YOUR WAY HERE?
I WAITED FOR YOU FOR AGES FROM THE MOMENT I KNEW HIS IDENTITY
W-WHAT THE HELL?
...HM?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

HMPH... REALLY?
F-FORGET ABOUT IT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I KNEW WITH JUST A GLANCE!
BECAUSE YOU'RE EASY TO RECOGNIZE
HOW SO?
IT'S NOT VERY IMPOR-TANT, BUT
HOW... UM...
IT GAVE ME A SWEET
AND THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!
THIS
EH?
H... HOW?
AH? YEAH, A FAKE SHOWED UP FOR ME AS WELL
BUT I KNEW IT IMMEDIA-TELY
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL YOU WOULD DO THAT.
.....
AND THEN THERE WAS THE "PING PING" AS USUAL

DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
WHY!?
BA
DAMN YOU, DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ME!!
WHY, SO SUDDENLY!?
HEH HEH HEH
DON'T JUST START PUNCHING OUT OF NOWHERE, AREN'T YOU A GIRL!?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY DON'T YOU FIX THAT MANLY MOUTH OF YOURS!?

THIS PAPER DOLL
ISN'T IT USEFUL?
THIS PATH IS THE ONE YOU ASKED FOR,
IF YOU DON'T DO YOUR BEST UNTIL THE END...
ONCE AGAIN,
YOU JUST MIGHT DIE, YOU KNOW?

KARUGASAKI TORA-KUN.
THE ONE WHO MADE THE PACT WITH THE SHINIGAMI WASN'T MIKI!?